

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION OF LAND TO THE
EAST OF BIRMINGHAM ROAD,
ALVECHURCH,
WORCESTERSHIRE

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With a contribution by Alan J Jacobs

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

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Worcestershire County Council

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Archaeological evaluation of land to the east of Birmingham Road, Alvechurch, Worcestershire

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Part 1: Project summary

An archaeological evaluation of two fields to the east of Birmingham Road, Alvechurch (centred on NGR SP 0266 7309), was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology Service on behalf of Worcestershire County Council. The aim of the evaluation was to establish the character and significance of any archaeological deposits on the site, so that the archaeological implications of a proposed development could be addressed. The evaluation involved the excavation and recording of 26 sample trenches, artefact analysis, and documentary research.

The evaluation identified evidence for different phases of cultivation and drainage. Four sherds of Roman pottery and three fragments of possibly Roman tile were recovered in the field adjacent to Birmingham Road. The small size and abraded condition of these artefacts suggest that they were deposited along with midden material spread as manure. The absence of Roman artefacts in the field to the east suggests that it was not cultivated in this period, or at least not manured: it may have been managed as grassland or wood-pasture. There was also an absence of early medieval artefacts in both fields, although this is typical and implies nothing about the nature of land-use in this period. Evidence for late medieval or early post-medieval cultivation was recovered in the form of plough furrows and tile fragments in the east field, and tile fragments only in the west field. Later post-medieval and modern cultivation was represented in the east field in the form of artefacts and mole drains. The west field seems to have been managed as pasture in these periods. Documentary evidence shows that the present field boundaries were established before the late 18th century. It is also likely that the brook that divides the two fields had been diverted and straightened by this time, and that a floodbank had been constructed on the east side of the new channel. The former channel was identified behind the floodbank. Finally, in the same area, an apparent pond shown on current Ordnance Survey maps was shown to be the result of localised waterlogging.

In conclusion, it appears that the site has been managed as farmland in one way or another since the Roman period. It is unlikely to have been settled at any time, or to have been a focus of other intensive activity. On this basis, and taking into account current research frameworks, the site cannot be regarded as archaeologically significant.

Part 2: Detailed report

1. Background information

1.1 Reasons for the project

The evaluation was commissioned by Worcestershire County Council, who are investigating the possibility of building a new Middle School on the site, and required information on the archaeological implications of this development.

1.2 Project parameters

The project conformed to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section of Worcestershire County Council (HEAS 2004a) and to detailed specifications based on this document (HEAS 2004b and HECAS 2005). The project also conformed to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999).

1.3 Aims

The aims of the type of project were to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits on the site, and, if any were present, to establish their extent, type, date, state of preservation, and significance.

2. Methods

2.1 Fieldwork

The brief required the excavation and recording of 26 trenches spread in a grid array across the site, which comprised two pasture fields divided by a brook (WHEAS 2004a, 3; Fig 2). Excavation of the trenches was to be preceded and followed by metal-detecting, and deposits containing significant plant or animal remains were to be sampled for environmental analysis.

The fieldwork was undertaken in two stages. The first stage took place between the 15th and the 18th of November 2004, and focused on the west field, adjacent to Birmingham Road (Fig 2, Trenches 1-12). The second stage took place between the 11th and 17th of May 2005, and focused on the east field, beyond the brook (Fig 2, Trenches 12-26). Most of the trenches were excavated as specified in the brief, although some locations were altered to avoid overhead electricity cables. Taken together, the trenches covered 983.50m² of the 52000m² available for excavation, representing a sample of 4.6%.

The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Selected deposits were cleaned and excavated by hand. Drawn, written, and photographic records were compiled according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). Once the trenches had been recorded they were reinstated by replacing the excavated material. Unfortunately, due to an oversight, no metal-detecting was undertaken, although excavated spoil was carefully searched for artefacts. No environmental samples were taken, as no deposits appeared to contain significant plant or animal remains. The advice of the Environmental Archaeologist was sought, however, the deposits were probably relatively late (18th century?) and unlikely to contain primary material (unlike deposits in off-cut meanders or lakes).

2.2 Post-fieldwork

2.2.1 Artefact analysis, by Alan J Jacobs

All hand-retrieved finds from stratified contexts were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. Artefacts from stratified context were identified, quantified and dated and a *terminus post quem* date produced for each context. An assessment of the range of finds and their date ranges was undertaken for topsoil contexts, these were described by finds type and a *terminus post quem* date assigned (see Appendix 2).

Pottery was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992).

2.2.2 Documentary research

Before the fieldwork, the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Inventory of the Worcestershire Record Office were searched for information relating to the site and the surrounding area. The main sources consulted are listed below.

Cartographic sources

- Godson and Son, 1792 *Plan of the Borough and Parish of Alvechurch in the County of Worcester, survey'd in 1792 by Godson and Son, Brailes, Warwickshire* (WRO BA 1042 ref. 989:9:110)

Documentary sources

- Anon, nd *Reference to a Plan in the Parish of Alvechurch, 1792* (WRO BA 9546, ref. 989:9:110)
- Moger, O M, and Wragge, A, Alvechurch, in Willis-Bund, J W (ed), *The Victoria County History of the County of Worcester*, vol 3 (London, 1913, reprinted 1971), 251-253

2.3 The methods in retrospect

The methods are thought to have produced enough evidence to allow reliable interpretations and assessments of archaeological significance to be made. The fieldwork methods allowed deposits across the site to be sampled, characterised, and extrapolated; they also allowed a representative sample of artefacts to be recovered from the topsoil, although some metal artefacts may have been missed. The post-fieldwork methods allowed the deposits to be dated with reasonable precision, associated with specific natural and cultural processes, and placed in a wider context. A high degree of confidence can therefore be expressed in the results of this project.

3. Topographical and archaeological background

The site lies on the east side of Birmingham Road, approximately half a kilometre to the north of Alvechurch town centre (Fig 1; NGR SP 0266 7309). It consists of two pasture fields separated by a brook that joins the River Arrow on the east side of Alvechurch. Both fields slope gently towards the brook in a typical valley profile. A bank has been constructed along the east side of the brook. The soils of the area have been mapped as fine loams over clays, and the geology as alluvial fan and periglacial gravels over Mercia Mudstone (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983; British Geological Survey 1989).

The archaeological background to the project was provided by records of find-spots of prehistoric to post-medieval artefacts in the area around Alvechurch. These sites and find-

spots are thought to represent a small fraction of the archaeological record of past settlement and land-use in the area. On this basis, it was considered that the site had the potential to contain significant archaeological remains.

It was also considered that a body of water shown on modern Ordnance Survey maps on the east side of the brook might represent a former fish or mill pond, similar to those recorded along the River Arrow near the Old Rectory, c400m to the north-east of the site, and near the Bishop's Palace, c500m to the south-west (Aston 1974).

Finally, it was considered that the location of the site beside a road of medieval or earlier origin indicated a limited potential for remains of roadside settlement. Previous research on Alvechurch did not suggest that the town ever extended so far to the north before the 20th century (Dalwood *et al* 1996, 5), although studies of historic settlement patterns in north Worcestershire provided a general context for deserted roadside cottages and farmsteads (Dyer 1990 and 1991).

4. Results

4.1 Stratigraphy

4.1.1 Phase 1: late Devensian and Holocene

Deposits associated with a former stream channel were identified in the west field (Fig 3: Plates 1-3). At the east end of Trench 5, between the subsoil and the mudstone, superimposed deposits of silty clay were found above a layer of small to medium rounded cobbles (context 508-511). A similar sequence was exposed in Trench 6 (contexts 603-605; Plate 1). The cobbles were interpreted as the bed-load of a periglacial stream, and the silty clays as later fills. Trench 10 established the line of the stream, as it was excavated across it at right angles to its line; at this point, the stream occupied a channel measuring some 8m wide by 0.50m deep (contexts 1008-1011; Plate 2). Finally, in Trench 11, the western side of the stream was identified, but not the eastern side, showing that it had widened by more than 16m over a distance of 36m (contexts 1103-1105; Plate 3). The fills of the stream were broadly similar, appearing to form discrete deposits of brownish over blueish grey silty clay, although it is likely that the original sediments have been greatly affected by post-depositional processes. No organic remains were noted in any of the fills and no artefacts were recovered from them.

4.1.2 Phase 2: Roman

A phase of Roman activity in the west field was represented by a small assemblage of pottery and tile fragments. These were recovered from reworked soils in Trenches 1, 4, and 5. In view of their wide distribution, small size, and abraded condition, these artefacts are best interpreted as the residue of manuring with midden material that incorporated household and farmyard waste. It is therefore likely that this part of the site was cultivated during the Roman period. There is a slim possibility that the artefacts could represent settlement rather than cultivation. However, the ploughsoil signature of Roman settlements is generally much more emphatic, and the lack of further material, combined with the absence of any features that could potentially be of Roman date argues strongly against this interpretation.

4.1.3 Phase 3: Medieval/post-medieval

Similar evidence for medieval or post-medieval cultivation was recovered in the form of tile fragments from both fields and truncated plough furrows in the east field (Fig 2; Plate 5). Individual furrows were approximately 2m wide and 0.15m deep, and were filled with light brown silt. In Trenches 24 and 25 successive furrows had merged together. The tile fragments recovered from the furrows, and from excavated spoil, were of a type produced between the 13th and 18th centuries.

4.1.4 **Phase 4: Post-medieval**

Post-medieval (17th and 18th century) cultivation was represented by unstratified fragments of pottery and tile. The majority of artefacts were recovered from the east field suggesting that it was manured and cropped more abundantly than the west field. The artefacts in the west field were fewer and restricted to the higher ground near Birmingham Road.

4.1.5 **Phase 5: Modern**

Modern (19th and 20th century) cultivation was represented in the west field by reworked soils, artefacts, and mole drains. The former ploughsoil was a uniform dark greyish brown silt loam. The artefacts comprised sherds of pottery and glass, and fragments of pipe stems and building materials. The mole drains ran on north-east to south-west alignments, and were sometimes paired (Fig 2; Plate 6). The lower part of the west field had also been drained, using ceramic pipes, but the soils in this area and across most of the field were heavily gleyed, and it is unlikely that they were cultivated. The lack of modern artefacts in the topsoil supports this interpretation.

The latest feature on the site was a trench that crossed the lower part of the west field (Fig 2). This southern length of this feature was straight, but its northern length it curved sharply to the east. When examined in section (in Trenches 5 and 10), the feature proved to have vertical sides and fills of redeposited mudstone. Excavation of the feature continued to 1.70m below the present surface but was stopped there for safety reasons, and because it was clear that such a feature could only be a modern service trench of some kind.

4.2 **Artefacts, by Alan J Jacobs**

4.2.1 **Analysis**

The pottery assemblage consisted of 12 sherds of pottery weighing 89g, in addition fragments of tile, brick, cement and glass were recovered. This group came from 11 stratified contexts and could be dated from the Roman period onwards (see Table 1). The level of preservation was generally fair with the majority of sherds displaying only common levels of abrasion.

Material	Total	Weight (g)
Roman pottery	2	37
Post-medieval pottery	4	11
Modern pottery	6	41
Tile	17	332
Brick	1	6
Cement	2	58
Glass	1	1
Total	33	486

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

4.2.2 Discussion of the pottery

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (see Table 2). A total of three diagnostic form sherds were present and could be dated accordingly, while the remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to the general period or production span. Where mentioned, all specific forms are referenced to the type series within the report for Deansway, Worcester (Bryant 2004).

The discussion below is a summary of the finds and associated location or contexts by period. Where possible, *terminus post quem* dates have been allocated and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

4.2.3 Roman pottery

The Roman pottery consisted of only two sherds of Severn Valley ware weighing 37g and is quantified in Table 2. A single form could be identified from subsoil context 101, this consisted of a single sherd of Severn Valley ware flanged bowl (Webster 1976, 34, fig9, no55) of 2nd-3rd century date.

Fabric number	Fabric name	Total sherds	Weight (g)
12	Severn Valley ware	2	37

Table 2: Quantification of the Roman pottery by fabric

4.2.4 Post-medieval pottery

The post-medieval pottery consisted of four sherds, weighing 11g and is quantified in Table 3. A single sherd of post-medieval red sandy ware of 17th-18th century date was present in context 2602. Two sherds of creamware (fabric 84) dating from the 17th-18th century and a sherd of tin glazed ware (fabric 82) dating from the mid to late 18th century were residual in context 2502.

Fabric number	Fabric name	Total sherds	Weight (g)
78	Post-medieval red ware	1	9
82	Tin glazed ware	1	1
84	Creamware	2	1
Total		4	11

Table 3: Quantification of the post-medieval pottery by fabric

4.2.5 Modern pottery

The modern pottery consisted of six sherds, weighing 41g and is quantified in Table 4. Four sherds of modern stone china were recovered from context 2502, all fragments of plate giving a *terminus post quem* date of the 20th century for the context. Two sherds of modern plant pot (fabric 101) were recovered from contexts 1401 and 2502, dating from the 19th-20th century.

Fabric number	Fabric name	Total sherds	Weight (g)
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85	Modern stone china	4	6
101	Miscellaneous modern ware	2	35
Total		6	41

Table 4: Quantification of the modern pottery by fabric

4.2.6 Other finds

Burnt fragments of Roman tile were recovered from contexts 505 and 501, giving a *terminus post quem* date of the 1st- 4th century for these contexts. Fragments of medieval to post-medieval tile were recovered from contexts 102, 202, 1202, 1303, 2303, and 2502 and these, with the exception of 2502, are probably of medieval date, although no other medieval material was recovered. Two fragments of modern cement and a shard of glass vessel were recovered from modern context 2502.

4.2.7 Significance

In conclusion, an examination of the stratified finds recovered would indicate a low level of activity on this site during the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. More evidence of modern activity is indicated in the unstratified topsoil contexts. Evidence for medieval activity comes entirely from fragments of tile of a long-lived type that may also be of post-medieval date. However, post-medieval material is only present in two stratified contexts and residual in topsoil contexts. This would seem on balance to indicate a low level of medieval agricultural activity.

5. Synthesis

On the basis of the excavated data and other sources consulted during the project, the history of the site can be summarised as follows.

Throughout most of the Holocene, the brook seems to have flowed in a meandering channel some 10-30m to the east of its present course. The alluvium to the east of the brook suggests that it periodically flooded on this side, and it can be assumed that these episodes produced a habitat of wet grassland or woodland. The natural ecology of the higher ground is uncertain, but a mixture of grassland and oak-or elm-dominated woodland seems most likely.

There is no evidence for prehistoric activity on the site, or in the wider area, although judging by evidence from other parts of north Worcestershire, it is likely that the area was inhabited, or at least exploited, by early hunters and farmers (Barfield 2002).

By the Roman period, it appears that the higher ground in the west field had been cleared and was in regular cultivation, with manure being brought in from a nearby farmstead. The assumption that a farmstead lay nearby is supported by the tendency for manuring scatters to be concentrated around settlements, although it would in theory be possible for more distant fields to be periodically manured. No evidence for Roman settlement or agriculture has hitherto been recorded in Alvechurch, although this is likely to reflect a lack of archaeological investigation rather than any lack of evidence. Other parts of Worcestershire are known to have been quite densely settled and intensively farmed from at least the late Iron Age (Hurst 2002).

There is no evidence for cultivation or indeed for any type of activity on the site in the post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods. This lack of evidence is not surprising, as material culture of these periods is seldom found anywhere in Worcestershire. It is therefore an open question whether the site remained in cultivation or was managed as pasture in these periods. At all

events, it does not appear to have reverted to woodland, as no evidence of tree boles or root disturbance was identified.

The evidence for medieval or early post-medieval cultivation in both fields is consistent with the site's proximity to Alvechurch which was an important small town during these periods (Dalwood 1996), and must have had an extensive agricultural hinterland. However, it is likely that much of the land around the town was managed as pasture or meadow rather than arable in these periods, or was cropped and grazed in different rotations (Yelling 1969). It is also likely that the present field boundaries were established sometime between the 15th and 18th centuries, as seems to have been the case elsewhere in Worcestershire, and especially in the north of the county (Roberts 1973).

At some point before 1792, when the area was mapped in detail for the first time, the brook was diverted into a new straight channel. The intention was probably to prevent the lower part of the west field from being flooded. It is likely that the bank on the west side of the brook was constructed at the same time, from excavated spoil. The east field appears to have been cropped throughout the post-medieval and modern periods, but the west field was apparently put down to pasture before 1792, and has remained pasture ever since. The floodbank, and later ceramic field drains in this field seem to have been ineffective in preventing seasonal waterlogging, and the re-creation of a wetland habitat behind the floodbank.

6. **Research frameworks**

The results of the evaluation contribute little to current research frameworks relating to Alvechurch (Dalwood 1996), north Worcestershire, and Worcestershire in general (see papers relating to Worcestershire in the West Midlands Regional Research Framework for Archaeology posted on the Internet at <http://www.iaa.bha.ac.uk/wmrrfa/seminars.htm>). The Roman material provides the first evidence of Roman cultivation in Alvechurch but such material is likely to be common. The medieval and/or post-medieval artefacts and features are typical of those found across north Worcestershire. Finally, the identification of a former stream channel gives a limited insight into local palaeohydrology and provides another example of historic water management to set alongside the fishponds at the Old Rectory and Bishop's Palace.

7. **Significance**

On present evidence, the site appears to be of local rather than countywide significance. This significance derives principally from the Roman material within the former ploughsoil, and to the deposits associated with the former stream: the other artefacts and deposits are not considered to be significant. There is an outside chance that the Roman artefacts represent settlement, rather than manuring. If this were the case, the site might be considered more significant, but not as significant as settlements represented by dense concentrations of artefacts and features. Similarly, the deposits associated with the former stream channel may contain some evidence of past fluvial processes and environments, although they are unlikely to be as significant as more deeply stratified and better dated alluvial deposits.

8. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

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behalf of Worcestershire County Council. The aim of the evaluation was to establish the character and significance of any archaeological deposits on the site, so that the archaeological implications of a proposed development could be addressed. The evaluation involved the excavation and recording of 26 sample trenches, artefact analysis, and documentary research.

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9. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

- 24 Trench Record Sheets AS41
- 5 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 2 Photographic records AS3
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum

Hartlebury Castle

Hartlebury

Near Kidderminster

Worcestershire DY11 7XZ

Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416

10. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank Patrick Travis and Mike Glyde for their assistance throughout the project, and John Fallon and Ron Rand for their forbearance during the second stage of fieldwork.

11. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation were led by Darren Miller. The project managers were Simon Griffin (Stage 1), and Simon Woodiwiss (Stage 2). Alvaro Mora-Ottomano, Tom Vaughn, and Maggie Noake assisted with the fieldwork. Angus Crawford and Alan J Jacobs examined and reported on the finds. The final text was written by Alan J Jacobs. Carolyn Hunt and Steve Rigby produced the illustrations.

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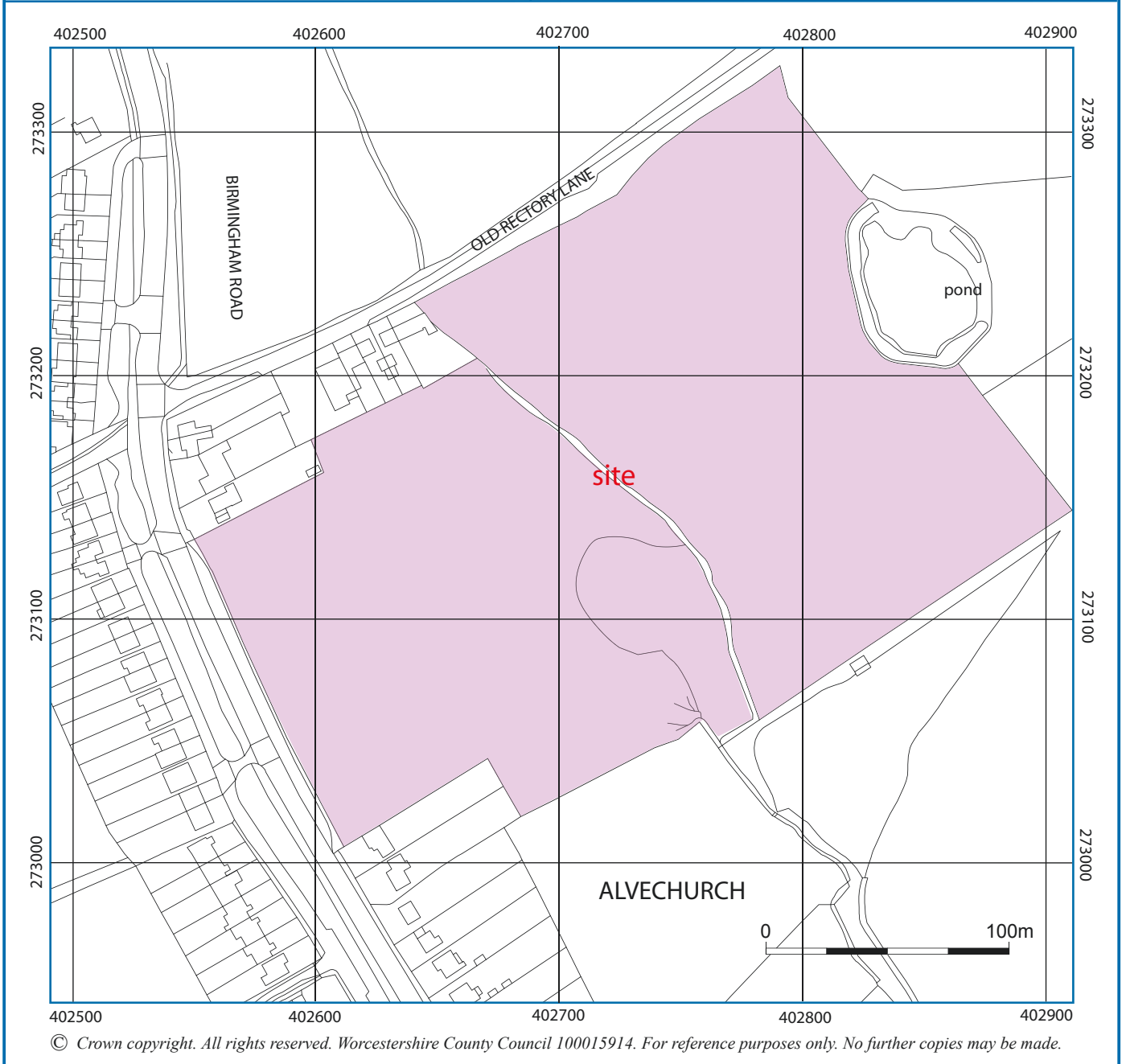
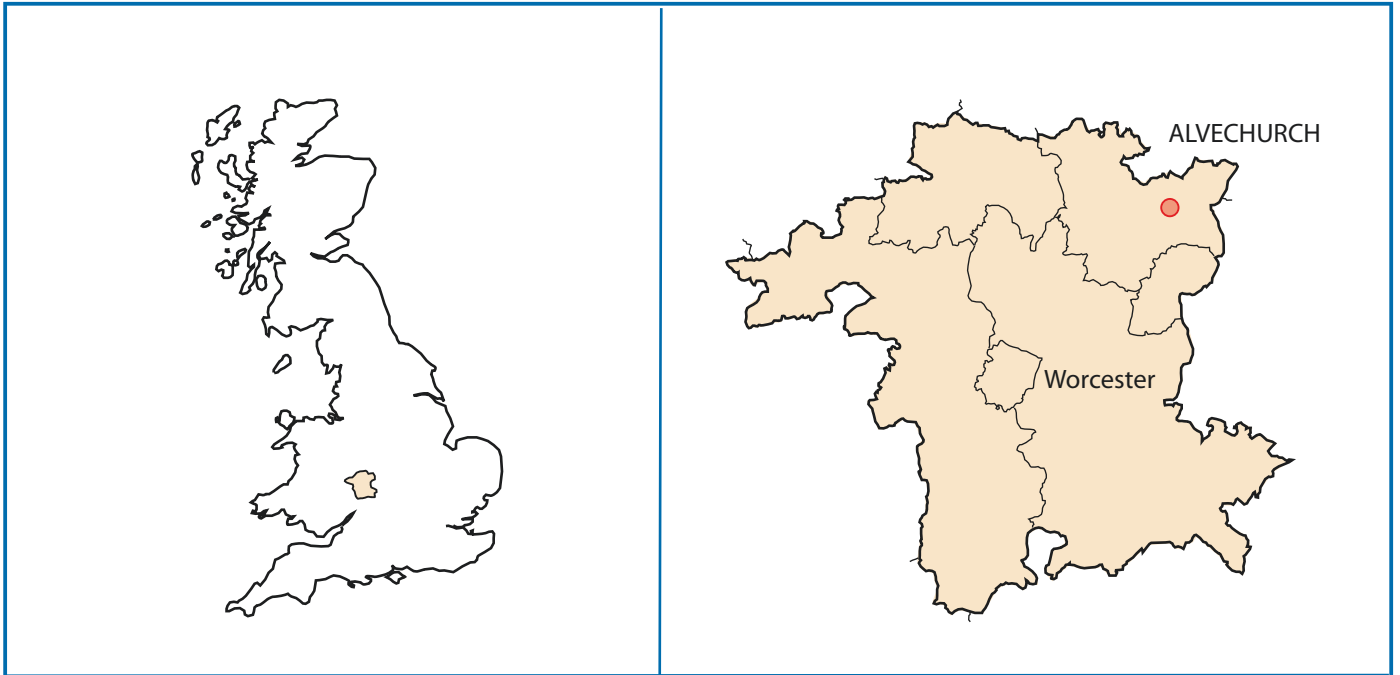
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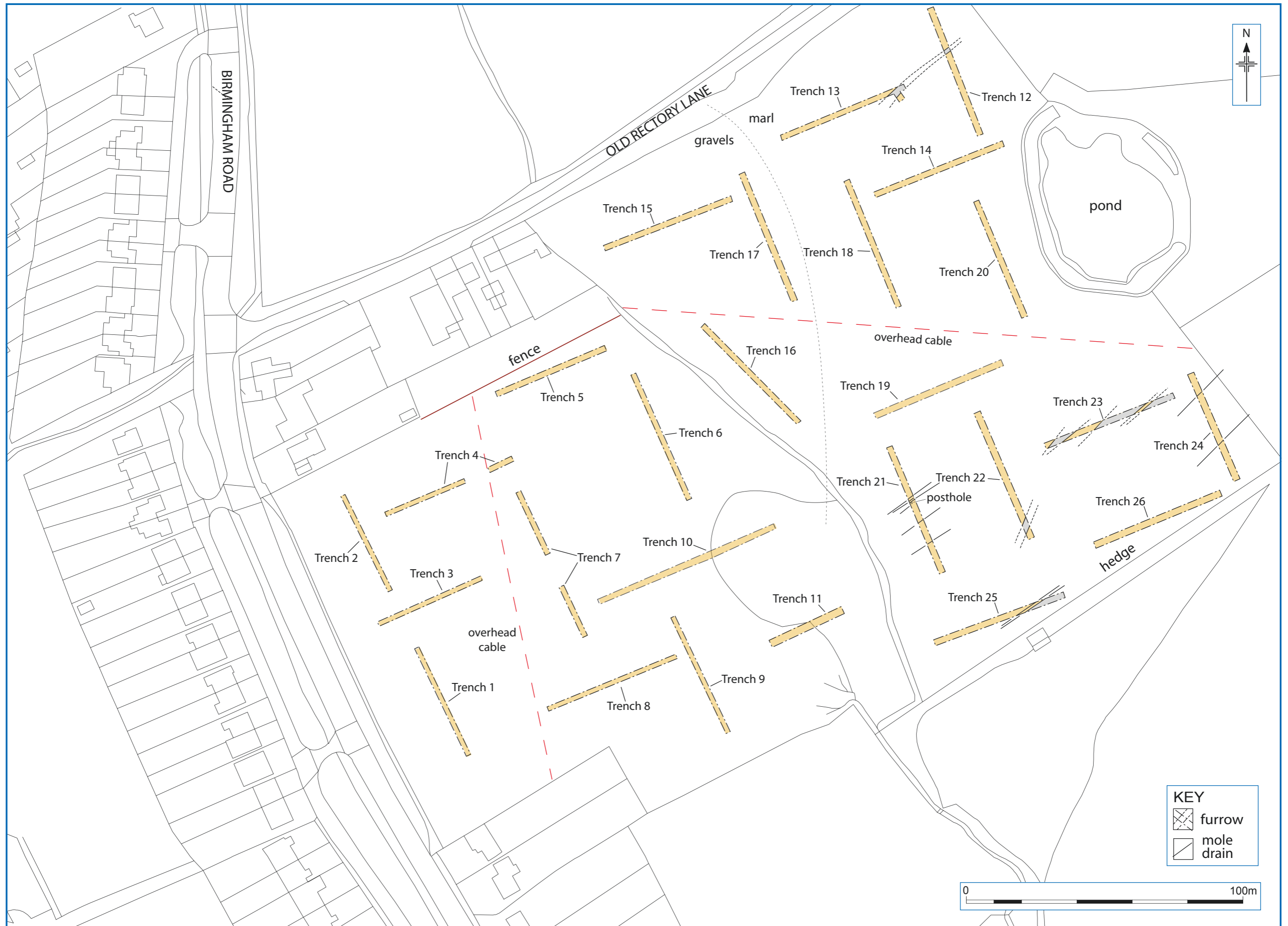
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Location of the site.

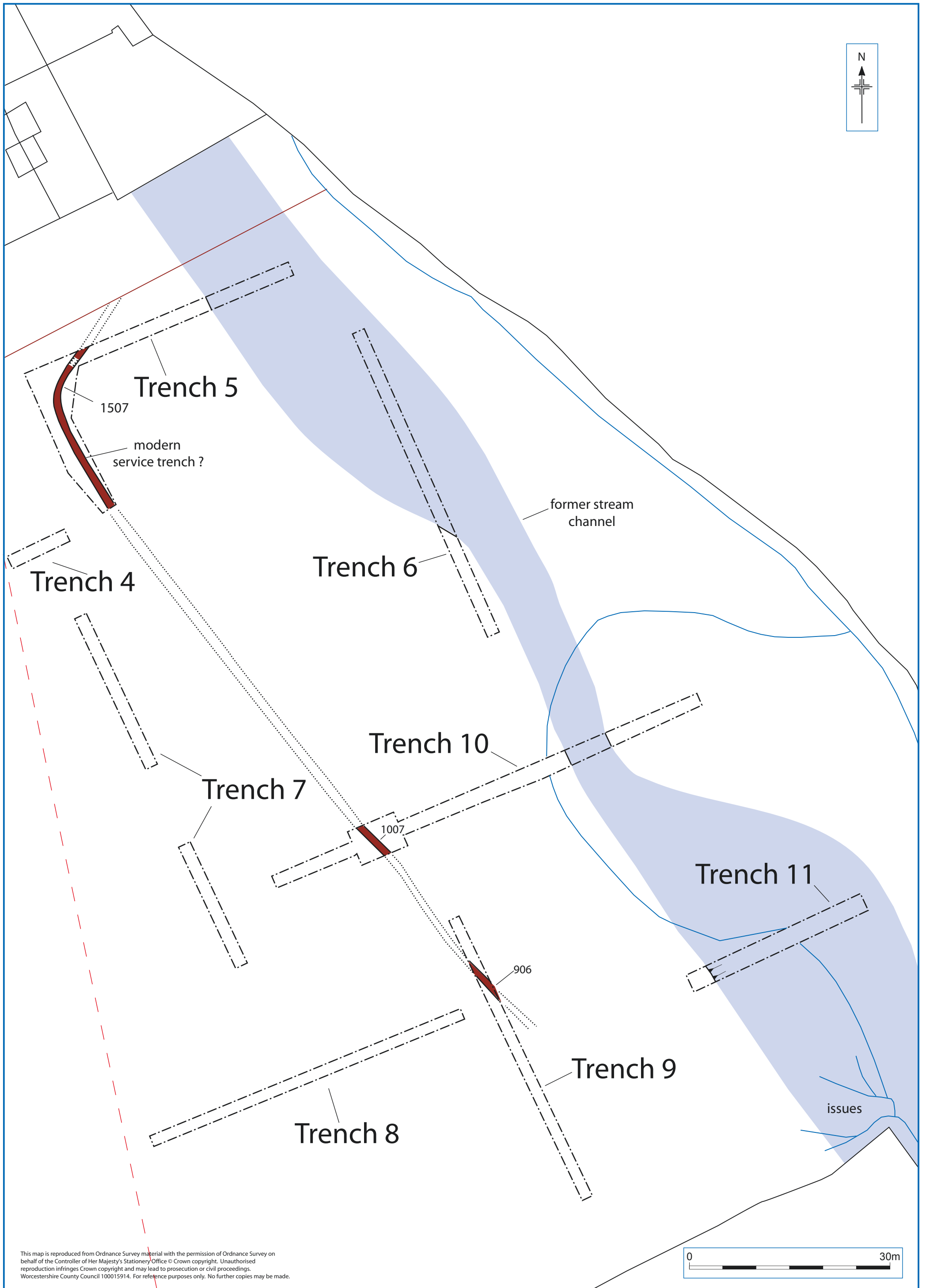
Figure 1



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Trench location plan

Figure 2



Plan of former stream channel

Figure 3



Plate 1: Trench 6, facing north-west, showing gravels and alluvium of former stream channel



Plate 2: Trench 10, facing north-east, showing gravels and alluvium of former stream channel



Plate 3: Trench 11, facing south-west, showing edge and fill of former stream channel, waterlogged topsoil and wet grassland



Plate 4: Trench 16, facing south-west, showing soils developed on fluvio-glacial gravels



Plate 5: Trench 23, facing north-east, showing parallel furrows



Plate 6: Trench 25, facing north-east, showing parallel mole drains

Appendix 1: Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 42.50m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
100	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
101	Dark brownish grey clay loam with common medium gravels	0.25m	Topsoil
102	Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant medium to large gravels	0.10m	Subsoil
103	Mid greenish brown silty clay with common medium gravels	0.15m	Subsoil
104	Reddish brown clay silt with abundant gravels and cobbles	0.50m+	Marl

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 36.60m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
200	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
201	Dark brownish grey clay loam with common medium gravels	0.25m	Topsoil
202	Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant medium to large gravels	0.10m	Subsoil
203	Mid greenish brown silty clay with common medium gravels	0.15m	Subsoil
204	Reddish brown clay silt with abundant gravels and cobbles	0.50m+	Marl

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 37.50m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.55m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
300	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
301	Dark brownish grey clay loam with common medium gravels	0.28m	Topsoil
302	Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant medium to large gravels	0.10m	Subsoil
303	Mid greenish brown silty clay with common medium gravels	0.17m	Subsoil
304	Reddish brown clay silt with abundant gravels and cobbles	0.55m+	Marl

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m + 9m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
400	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
401	Dark brownish grey clay loam with common medium gravels	0.30m	Topsoil
402	Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant medium to large gravels	0.10m	Subsoil
403	Mid greenish brown silty clay with common medium gravels	0.20m	Subsoil
404	Reddish brown clay silt with abundant gravels and cobbles	0.60+	Marl

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 42m (E-W), 24m (N-S) Width: 1.80m (E-W), 6-3m (N-S)
Depth: 0.80m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
500	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
501	Dark brownish grey clay loam with common medium gravels	0.30m	Topsoil
502	Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant medium to large gravels	0.10m	Subsoil
503	Mid greenish brown silty clay with common medium gravels	0.25m	Subsoil
504	Reddish brown clay silt mixed with abundant round gravels and cobbles	0.80m+	Marl
505	Mid reddish brown silty clay with common medium gravels and few cobbles	1.10m	Fill of ditch (natural re-deposited)
506	Mid greyish brown silty clay with abundant large cobbles (not fully excavated)	0.30m	Fill of ditch
507 (=906 and 1007)	Ditch aligned north-west to south-east	1.40m	Pipe trench? (not fully excavated)
508	Light greenish yellow silty clay	0.22m	Alluvial deposit
509	Light brown silty clay	0.30m	Alluvial deposit
510	Light blueish grey silty clay	Unexcavated	Alluvial deposit
511	Light grey silt with abundant cobbles and gravels	Unexcavated	River deposit

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.80m Depth: 1.20m (max.)

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
600	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
601	Dark brownish grey clay loam with common medium gravels	0.26m	Topsoil
602	Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant medium to large gravels	0.18m	Subsoil
603	Light blueish grey and mottled orange clay silt with few small gravels	0.26m	Alluvial layer
604	Light blueish grey orange mottled silty clay	0.28m	Alluvial layer
605	Medium gravels in light blueish grey silty sand matrix	0.20m (not fully excavated)	Alluvial layer

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25 + 20m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.45m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
700	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
701	Dark brownish grey clay loam with common medium gravels	0.25m	Topsoil
702	Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant medium to large gravels	0.10m	Subsoil
703	Mid greenish brown silty clay with common medium gravels	0.10m	Subsoil
704	Reddish brown clay silt mixed with abundant gravels and cobbles	0.45m+	Marl

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.65m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
800	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
801	Dark brownish grey clay loam with common medium gravels	0.30m	Topsoil
802	Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant medium to large gravels	0.15m	Subsoil
803	Mid greenish brown silty clay with common medium gravels	0.20m	Subsoil
804	Reddish brown clay silt mixed with abundant gravels and cobbles	0.65m+	Marl

Trench 9

Maximum dimensions: Length: 46m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.40m

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
900	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
901	Dark brownish grey clay loam with common medium gravels	0.20m	Topsoil
902	Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant medium to large gravels	0.12m	Subsoil
903	Mid greenish brown silty clay with common medium gravels	0.08m	Subsoil
904	Reddish brown clay silt mixed with abundant gravels and cobbles	0.40m+	Marl
905	Mid greyish brown silty clay with abundant large cobbles (unexcavated)	Unexcavated	Fill of modern pipe trench?
906 (=507)	Linear aligned north-east to south-west	Unexcavated	Pipe trench?

Trench 10

Maximum dimensions: Length: 70m Width: 1.80m Depth: 1.70m (max.)

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
1000	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
1001	Dark brownish grey clay loam with common medium gravels	0.30m	Topsoil
1002	Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant medium to large gravels	0.14m	Subsoil
1003	Small and medium gravels in mid brown clay silt matrix	0.70m	Natural
1004	Reddish brown clay silt	0.88m+	Natural
1005	Brown clay silt with abundant gravels	0.65m	Fill of pipe trench?
1006	Reddish brown clay silt mixed with light blueish grey clay, few gravels.	0.70m (not fully excavated)	Fill of pipe trench?
1007 (=507 and 906)	Linear feature, aligned north-east to south-west	1.40m (not fully excavated)	Modern pipe trench?
1008	Light brownish yellow clay silt with few small/medium gravels	Overall depth c0.50m	Fill of palaeo-channel
1009	Light greyish blue clay silt with small and medium gravels		Fill of palaeo-channel
1010	Light greyish blue clay silt with abundant small gravels		Primary fill of palaeo-channel
1011	Shallow declivity with gradually sloping sides and flat base		Stream channel

Trench 11

Maximum dimensions: Length: 27m Width: 1.80m Depth: 1m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
1100	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
1101	Dark brownish grey clay loam with common medium gravels	0.20m	Topsoil
1102	Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant medium to large gravels	0.10m	Subsoil
1103	Light yellowish brown silty clay	0.20m	Alluvial deposit
1104	Light blueish grey silty clay	0.35m	Alluvial deposit
1105	Light greenish grey silt with abundant cobbles, gravels and gravels	Unexcavated	River deposit
1106	Reddish brown clay silt mixed with abundant gravels and cobbles	0.35m+	Marl

Trench 12

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.83m

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
1200	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
1201	Dark greyish brown clay loam with few small gravels	0.29m	Topsoil
1202	Light reddish brown clay silt with few small gravels	0.28m	Subsoil
1203	Mid brownish Reddish brown clay silt	n/a	Marl
1204	Light brown clay silt with few small gravels	Unexcavated	Fill of 1205
1205	Linear parallel-sided cut aligned North-east to south-west with concave sides and flat base	Unexcavated	Plough furrow

Trench 13

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.65m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
1300	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
1301	Dark greyish brown clay loam with few small gravels.	0.35m	Topsoil
1302	Light reddish brown clay silt with few small gravels	0.15m	Subsoil
1303	Light brown clay silt with few small gravels	0.15m	Fill of 1305
1304	Linear parallel-sided cut aligned north-east to south-west with concave sides and flat base	Unexcavated	Plough furrow
1305	Mid brownish Reddish brown clay silt	n/a	Marl

Trench 14

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.55m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
1400	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
1401	Dark greyish brown clay loam with few small gravels.	0.30m	Topsoil
1402	Light reddish brown clay silt with few small gravels	0.16m	Subsoil
1403	Mid brownish Reddish brown clay silt	n/a	Marl

Trench 15

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.70m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
1500	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
1501	Dark greyish brown clay loam with few small gravels.	0.35m	Topsoil
1502	Light reddish brown clay silt with few small gravels	0.20m	Subsoil
1503	Abundant small gravels in light brown sandy silt matrix	0.15m+	Fluvioglacial deposit

Trench 16

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.95m

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
1600	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
1601	Dark greyish brown clay loam with few charcoal flecks and small gravels.	0.35m	Topsoil
1602	Light reddish brown clay silt with common charcoal fragments and few small gravels	0.15m	Subsoil
1603	Abundant small gravels in light brown sandy silt matrix	0.45m+	Fluvioglacial deposit

Trench 17

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.70m

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
1700	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
1701	Dark greyish brown clay loam with few small gravels.	0.35m	Topsoil
1702	Light reddish brown clay silt with few small gravels	0.20m	Subsoil

1703	Abundant small gravels in light brown sandy silt matrix	0.15m+	Fluvioglacial deposit
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Trench 18

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
1800	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
1801	Dark greyish brown clay loam with abundant charcoal fragments and few small gravels.	0.36m	Topsoil
1802	Light reddish brown clay silt with few small gravels	0.14m	Subsoil
1803	Mid brownish Reddish brown clay silt	n/a	Marl

Trench 19

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.55m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
1900	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
1901	Dark greyish brown silt loam with common charcoal fragments and few small gravels.	0.40m	Topsoil
1902	Light reddish brown clay silt with few small gravels	0.15m	Subsoil
1903	Mid brownish Reddish brown clay silt	n/a	Marl

Trench 20

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.85m Depth: c0.50m

Orientation: North-west to south-east

[No written record, but deposits much as in Trenches 14 and 18]

Trench 21

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
2100	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
2101	Dark greyish brown silt loam with common charcoal fragments and few small gravels.	0.50m	Topsoil
2103	Mid brownish Reddish brown clay silt	n/a	Marl

Trench also contains three mole drains (aligned north-east to south-west) and a posthole, all filled with redeposited topsoil.

Trench 22

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
2200	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
2201	Dark greyish brown silt loam with few charcoal flecks and few small gravels.	0.30m	Topsoil
2202	Light reddish brown clay silt with few small gravels	0.10m	Subsoil
2204	Light greyish brown clay silt	Unexcavated	Fill of 2205
2205	Linear parallel-sided cut aligned north-east to south-west	Unexcavated	Plough furrow
2206	Mid brownish Reddish brown clay silt	n/a	Marl

Trench 23

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.45m

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
2300	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
2301	Dark greyish brown silt loam with few charcoal flecks and few small gravels.	0.30m	Topsoil
2302	Light reddish brown clay silt with few small gravels	0.10m	Subsoil
2304	Light greyish brown clay silt	Unexcavated	Fill of 2305
2305	Linear parallel-sided cut aligned north-east to south-west	Unexcavated	Plough furrow (east end of trench)
2306	Light greyish brown clay silt	Unexcavated	Fill of 2307
2307	Linear parallel-sided cut aligned north-east to south-west	Unexcavated	Plough furrow (centre of trench)
2308	Light greyish brown clay silt	Unexcavated	Fill of 2309
2309	Linear parallel-sided cut aligned north-east to south-west	Unexcavated	Plough furrow (west end of trench)
2306	Mid reddish brown clay silt	0.05m+	Marl

Trench 24

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
2400	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
2401	Mid to dark greyish brown silt loam with few small gravels	0.30m	Topsoil
2402	Light reddish brown clay silt with few small gravels	0.10m	Subsoil
2403	Light reddish brown clay silt/silt clay; light blueish grey in patches	0.10m+	Marl

Trench also contains two mole drains, aligned north-east to south west and filled with redeposited topsoil.

Trench 25

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.56m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
2500	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
2501	Mid to dark greyish brown silt loam with few small gravels	0.30m	Topsoil
2502	Light reddish brown clay silt	0.10m+	Marl

Trench also contains two mole drains, aligned north-east to south west and filled with redeposited topsoil.

Trench 26

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
2600	Number allocated to finds from excavated spoil	n/a	n/a
2601	Mid to dark greyish brown silt loam with few small gravels	0.30m	Topsoil
2602	Light reddish brown clay silt with few small gravels	0.10m+	Subsoil
2603	Light reddish brown clay silt	0.10m+	Marl

Appendix 2: Assessment of unstratified finds (by Alan J Jacobs)

Context	Assessment and dating
200	Fragments of medieval to post-medieval roof tile were recovered, most likely of post-medieval date This would be consistent with a 17 th -18 th century <i>terminus post quem</i> .
300	A single highly fired and abraded fire brick of post-medieval to modern date was recovered. This would be consistent with a 17 th -19 th century <i>terminus post quem</i> .
400	Fragments of post-medieval roof tile were recovered, as well as several abraded sherds of Severn Valley ware (fabric 12) of 1 st -4 th century date This would be consistent with residual material in a context with a 17 th -18 th century <i>terminus post quem</i> .
700	A single fragment of post-medieval to modern tile was recovered. This would be consistent with a 17 th -19 th century <i>terminus post quem</i> .
1200	A single fragment of modern bottle glass was present, pottery consisted of modern stone china (fabric 85). Post medieval material consisted of a single sherd of red sandy ware (fabric78). This would be consistent with residual material in a context with a 20 th century <i>terminus post quem</i> .
1300	Fragments of modern tile, brick, tobacco pipe stem and modern glass, pottery consists primarily of modern stone china (fabric 85) with smaller amounts of porcelain (fabric 83) and single sherds of stoneware (fabric 81). Post medieval material consists of tile and pottery, red sandy ware (fabric78) and a single sherd of cream ware (fabric 84). This would be consistent with residual material in context with a 20 th century <i>terminus post quem</i> .
1400	Fragment of modern bottle glass and window glass were present, pottery consisted of modern stone china (fabric 85) with smaller amounts of porcelain (fabric 83). Post medieval material consisted of a single sherd of red sandy ware (fabric78), creamware (fabric 84, Tin Glazed ware (fabric 82) and Basalt ware (fabric 81). This would be consistent with residual material in a context with a 20 th century <i>terminus post quem</i> .
1600	A single fragment of modern tile was present, pottery consisted of modern stone china (fabric 85) in distinct 20 th century forms. Post medieval material consisted of a single sherd of Tin glazed ware (fabric 82). This would be consistent with residual material in a context with a 20 th century <i>terminus post quem</i> .
1800	Fragments of modern bottle glass and tile were present, pottery consisted of modern stone china (fabric 85) with smaller amounts of porcelain (fabric 83). Post medieval material consisted of a single sherd of red sandy ware (fabric78), Cream ware (fabric 84, Tin Glazed ware (fabric 82) and fragments of tobacco pipe stem. This would be consistent with residual material in a context with an early 20 th century <i>terminus post quem</i> .
1900	Fragments of modern tile, brick, window and vessel glass, pottery consists primarily of modern stone china (fabric 85) primarily of 19 th century date with smaller amounts of porcelain (fabric 83) and a few sherds of stoneware (fabric 81). Post medieval material consists of fragments of tobacco pipe stems. This would be consistent with residual material in context with a 20 th century <i>terminus post quem</i> .
2100	Fragments of modern brick, bottle glass, window glass and tobacco pipe stem, pottery consists of modern bone china (fabric 85) and porcelain (fabric 83) and a single sherd of a stoneware inkpot. This would be consistent with a 20 th century <i>terminus post quem</i> .
2200	Fragments of modern tile, tobacco pipe stem and modern vessel and window glass, pottery consists primarily of modern stone china (fabric 85) with smaller amounts of porcelain (fabric 83) and several sherds of miscellaneous late stoneware (fabric 81.4). Post medieval material consists of red sandy ware (fabric78). This would be consistent with residual material in a context with a late 19 th - 20 th century <i>terminus post quem</i> .
2300	Fragments modern glass and an iron nail, pottery consisted of modern stone china (fabric 85), porcelain (fabric 83) miscellaneous late stoneware (fabric 81.4). Post medieval material consists of tile and pottery, red sandy ware (fabric78) and a

	single fragment of tobacco pipe stem. This would be consistent with residual material in a context with a 20 th century <i>terminus post quem</i> .
2500	Fragments modern vessel glass, small fragments of bone and a copper alloy staple, pottery consisted of modern stone china (fabric 85), porcelain (fabric 83) miscellaneous late stoneware (fabric 81.4) in the form of a 20 th century sugar bowl. Post medieval material consists of tile and a single sherd of red sandy ware (fabric 78) and a several fragments of tobacco pipe stem. This would be consistent with residual material in a context with a 20 th century <i>terminus post quem</i> .
2600	Fragments a modern glass bottle unidentifiable iron objects, pottery consisted of modern stone china (fabric 85), porcelain (fabric 83). Post medieval material consists of pottery, red sandy ware (fabric 78) and buff sandy ware (fabric 91). This would be consistent with residual material in a context with a 20 th century <i>terminus post quem</i> .